-9 JAN 1958
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CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

GATE HOUSE,
CHEPSTOW, MON.

DECEMBER 1957.

TEL. NO. 2657.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman. Mr. Councillor T.F.H. Lang. J.P.

Vice-Chairman. Mr. Councillor H.R. Pinchard.

COUNCILLORS:-

Mrs. M. Collins. J.P.

Mr. D.H. Davies.

Mr. A.J. James.

Mr. W.G. James.

Mr. G.T. Meddins.

Mr. C.E.A. Morgan.

Mr. A.T.B. O'Neill.

Mr. L. Price.

Mr. P. Price.

Mr. S.J. Richards.

Mr. S.J. Ryan.

Mr. G. Sprague.

Mr. R. Williams.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.	Mr. A. Gill.
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.	Mr. E.McC. Taylor.
Additional Public Health Inspector.	Mr. D.J. Turner.
Rating Officer and Collector.	Mr. W.A. Hood.
Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. E.N. Dowell.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gate House,

CHEPSTOW, Mon.

December, 1957.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the

Chepstow Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

The health of the district is satisfactory.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Taylor and Mr. Turner for their help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. N. DOWELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)		1,350
Population.	1931 Census.	4,303
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1954.	5,870
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1955.	5,930
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1956.	5,920
Number of Inhabited Houses.		1,639
Rateable Value @ 1st April 1956.		£67,235
Product of 1d. Rate	Actual 1955/56. -	£137. 1. 4
	Actual 1956/57. -	£281. 12. 7½

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Legitimate.	53	53	106
Illegitimate.		2	2

There were 106 live births in 1954 and 81 in 1952.

STILL BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Legitimate.	2	2	4

There was only one still birth in 1954.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Legitimate.	2	2	4

The following gives a list of infant deaths under one year of age, giving age at and cause of death:-

(i)	Female	1 week.	I.a. Congenital Spina Bifida.
(ii)	Male	2 days.	I.a. Pulmonary Collapse.
			b. Inhalation of food.
(iii)	Male	1 hour.	I.a. Prematurity.

In 1954 there was one death of an infant under one year of age. In 1952 there were 5 deaths.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Deaths.	45	28	73

There were 98 deaths in 1953 and 59 in 1951 and 1952.

For the fifth consecutive year there were no deaths attributed to Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Abortion.

In 1953 there were 3 deaths attributed to malignant disease of the lung and 26 to vascular lesions of the nervous system, 15 males and 11 females. The deaths attributed to coronary disease were 7 males and 2 females in 1954.

Of the total deaths, 31 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

DIPHTHERIA.

For the fourth consecutive year, there were no cases notified.

IMMUNISATION.

During the year 100 children were immunised against diphtheria. Of this number 44 were born in 1955 and 17 in 1956.

Of the 93 children born in 1955, 50 had been immunised against diphtheria by the end of 1956.

This year vaccinations and immunisations were not discontinued owing to the occurrence of Poliomyelitis.

VACCINATIONS (Smallpox).

During the year 51 vaccinations against smallpox were carried out. Of this number 30 were babies born in 1956 and 15 babies born in 1955.

SCARLET FEVER.

Ten cases were notified. There were no cases notified in 1954 and 8 in 1952.

MEASLES.

One case was notified. Thirty cases were notified in 1955. In 1954 there was one notification compared with 22 in 1953.

WHOOPING COUGH.

One case was notified. In 1955 there were no notifications. Immunisation against Whooping Cough was commenced in the Area in May, 1955. Children are immunised against Whooping Cough alone or in combination with Diphtheria vaccine.

POLIOMYELITIS.

No cases were notified. There were no notifications in 1955.

During the year 36 children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis. These were carried out at Boverton House Clinic.

DYSENTERY.

There were 21 notifications and were of cases which occurredin one of the hospitals in the Area.

The first notification was received on the 19.5.56 and the last on the 6.10.56. There were no notifications during July.

All cases were removed to the City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff.

FOOD POISONING.

Two isolated cases of food poisoning, the causative organism being the Salmonella Typhi-murium, were notified. The first, a man age 66 years, was notified on the 22.6.56, and the other, a man age 25 years, on the 14.9.56.

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS.

On the 13.4.56 a notification was received from St. Woolos' Hospital that a girl age 3.4/12 years had been admitted there on the 17.2.56 suffering from Acute Encephalitis.

There were no complications and the child made a successful recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Primary Notifications.

The only notification received was that of a boy aged 6 years suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In 1952 and 1954, 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

As in 1954, 1953, and 1952, there were no deaths.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED AGE GROUPS.							
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over	TOTAL All ages.
Diphtheria.								
Scarlet Fever.			1	9				10
Pneumonia.								
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.								
Acute Poliomyelitis.								
Enteric Fever.								
Encph. Lethargica.								
Dysentery.	1	9	5	1		2	3	21
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.								
Puerperal Pyrexia.								
Measles and German Measles.			1					1
Whooping Cough.			2					2
Food Poisoning.							2	2
Other Diseases.			1 Acute Encephalitis.					1
TOTAL:	1	9	10	10		2	5	37

DEATHS IN CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT 1956.

	Males.	Females.
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	
Malignant neoplasm, breast.		1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	2	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.		1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	9	5
Coronary disease, angina.	8	5
Other heart disease.	4	3
Other circulatory disease.	1	1
Influenza.	1	
Pneumonia.	1	1
Bronchitis.	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	
Congenital malformations.		1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1
All other accidents.	2	
Suicide.		1
Homicide and operations of war.	1	
All Causes.	45	28

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1956.

WATER

The water supply to the District is supplied by a Private Company, and is derived from three sources in the Chepstow Park area within the Chepstow Rural District. All water is subjected to chlorination by the "Chloramine" process. The supply is adequate and routine samples are taken for both chemical and bacteriological examination.

Samples taken during the year showed that the water was suitable for a public and domestic supply.

The water is not subject to plumbo-solvency.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS

There are no swimming or bathing pools within the area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No extensions were made during the year to the Council's sewerage system.

The cleansing and repair of choked or defective drainage systems, both public and private, is demanded immediately upon receipt of complaint or noted during inspections.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Almost the whole of the dwelling houses within the Urban District are provided with waterclosets connected up to the Council's sewerage system. A small number of dwellings are drained into cesspools, but as these are situated in the sparsely populated parts of the district, no trouble is experienced.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and trade refuse is collected twice weekly from all premises with a more frequent collection for the business premises in the Town centre.

REFUSE COLLECTION (Continued)

Disposal is effected by tipping in a large depression adjacent to the Chepstow Racecourse, and which should meet the needs of the District for many years.

HOUSING

The regular and systematic inspection of premises was carried out during the year as required by the Public Health & Housing Acts, and statutory nuisances found as a result of these inspections were entirely abated without resort to formal action on behalf of the Council.

A schedule has been prepared, in connection with the Housing Survey required by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, of properties which come within the provisions of Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses, and whilst the Council have not yet been in a position to commence their "Slum Clearance Programme", it is hoped that within a minimum period the rehousing of tenants from such properties will be practicable.

In considering the schedule which was submitted to the Minister, one must realise, of course, that the schedule contained only proposals of properties to be dealt with and not binding undertakings. In effect therefore, the information required was an indication of the size of the problem and how soon the Authority proposed to deal with its own problem. In two or three years the character of a house or an area may change for the better or the worse and a rapid appreciation of today may have to be revised when the opportune time arrives.

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

Only one application was made to the Council for a grant under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, and it is to be regretted that other Owners of properties which lack modern amenities do not seek aid, as only in this way will a large number of substantially built houses lacking modern amenities be available for letting to younger married couples.

Regular inspection of houses owned by the Local Authority was commenced during the year, selected areas being chosen from time to time and each house visited and inspected. Generally the houses were maintained in a very good condition, and the general state of cleanliness was found to be excellent.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

The long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, but certain provisions involving alterations to premises or equipment etc., was deferred until the 1st July, 1956.

Following on the new Regulations, all parties concerned in the business of food handling were supplied with an Abstract of the Regulations together with other literature. Considerable attention was therefore devoted to food premises and as a result many improvements were affected.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The whole of the milk supplied within the district is imported, all consisting of bottled milk of the designated grades.

A number of samples of milk were abstracted from retailers during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination, and in each case satisfied the prescribed test.

No samples of milk were submitted for biological examination.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949-54

No. of Licences Issued	10
Dealers Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk	1
Dealers Licence to retail T.T. Past. Milk	1
Supplementary Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk ..	3
Supplementary Licence to retail T.T. Past. Milk ..	5

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC) REGULATIONS 1947 to 1952

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES

Manufacturers (Cold Mix)	Nil
Retailers	13

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING

Samples of pre-packed ice-cream were collected during the summer months and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination, all samples being placed in either Grade 1 or 2.

The bulk of the ice-cream consumed in the area is pre-packed and supplied by the larger distributor manufacturers.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

The undermentioned visits were carried out during the year in connection with the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts:-

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of Insp. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	12	5	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	17	-	-	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL:		29	5	-	-	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	M/c line No.
		Found Remedied		Referred			
				To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.I)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2).	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10						10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL:							

NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices served	...	11
Preliminary Notices abated	...	55
Statutory Notices served	...	Nil
Statutory Notices abated	...	Nil

General Inspections.

Council house repairs, rehousing etc.	...	436
Drainage	...	253
Factories	...	5
Rodent infestation	...	120
Verminous premises	...	8
Infectious disease	...	14
Slaughterhouse	...	105
Food Shops	...	83
Bakehouses	...	13
Hotels	...	3
Licensed Premises	...	1
Food Vans etc.	...	26
Smoke Observations	...	3
Places of Entertainment	...	1
Visits re unsound food	...	31
Water, milk and ice-cream samples	...	36
Offensive accumulations	...	1
Public Utilities Street Works	...	51
Rag and Bone merchants	...	2
Refuse collection and disposal	...	51
Hospital and School canteen kitchens	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	99
Interviews	...	89
HOUSING (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	73
HOUSING No of inspections made for that purpose	...	534

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	48	1	11	308	24	-
Number inspected	48	1	11	308	24	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcass condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	19	-	-	2	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci.	39.5	-	-	.65	-	-
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION (Cont'd).

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of visits to Slaughterhouse ... 105

In addition, routine visits were made to butchers shops to ensure that all meat consignments from outside the district had been inspected at their source of origin.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD.

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	Lbs.
TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Meat	-	-	-	-
Offal	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	-	-	-	-
NON-TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Meat		2	-	22
Offal		1	1	11
TOTAL:		3	2	5
Total amount - Tuberculosis and Non Tuberculosis:		3	2	5
OTHER FOODS.				
Beef		1	1	-
Pork			1	18
Venison			2	16
Mutton				16
Jellied Veal				12
Imported Liver				20
Corned Beef			3	15
Cooked Ham			2	16
Pork Luncheon Meat			2	10
Cheese				17
		5	-	-

TINS - 315 PACKETS - 1 PORK PIES - 48

CATTLE MARKET.

The Council control the Cattle Market, markets being held on alternate Mondays.

Animals entering the Market during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1956, were as follows:-

CATTLE.	CALVES.	SHEEP.	PIGS.	TOTAL.
1,126	693	6,590	1,668	10,077

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY